

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group

Minutes of Steering Group Meeting on 17th May 2024

Present:

Fran Lancaster	FL	Principal Natural Environment Officer HC
Amelia Airey	AA	Nature Recovery Officer HC
Rhiannon Pierce	RP	Senior Advisor Natural England
Emma Whitehouse	EW	Environment Agency
Alan Reid	AR	Forestry Commission
Helen Dale	HD	Regional Advisor Countryside Management (CLA)
Claire Spicer	CS	Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Andrew Blake	AB	Wye Valley AONB and representing Malvern Hills AONB
Emma Gardner	EG	Ecologist HBRC
Liz Duberley	LD	Service Manager Built and Natural Environment HC

2. Minutes from last meeting

There were no outstanding actions arising from previous minutes.

3. Gantt Chart Progress

AA gave a brief update on progress regarding the project planning in relation to design work, strategy, mapping and species longlisting.

Detailed discussion included the species longlist being longer than expected and the current inclusion of multiple local BAP species which included those species known to be priority and species where more research is required.

RP reported that other responsible authorities had a range of 500-1200 species included in the longlist.

Action: RP to clarify whether the guidance allows or encourages removal of species where more research is required

Action: RP to check with Jack Bonnick if there is a way to shorten the longlisting prior to applying shortlisting criteria

Action: AA to circulate long list to DEFRA at the same time it goes to county recorders

Action: AA to share the most recent version of the Gantt chart

4. SharePoint

AA gave update on SharePoint which has been agreed in principle but will take some time to establish

5. Engagement and Timelines

AA outlined the timeline for the awareness raising which included moving the welcome webinar to the 2nd week of June and having a presence at the three counties show (14th – 16th June).

HD raised that CLA would be having a breakfast event on Friday

Action: HD to link up with AA on whether LNRS could have a presence at the breakfast event and potentially be identified.

Detailed discussion on the level of engagement happening during the awareness raising, focus on connecting with landowners prior to participation phase of engagement, possibility of undertaking piece of work similar to that in Essex and writing to all farm businesses. Having

presence at markets before participation including cattle (livestock) markets. Contacting other landowners groups (linking into memberships or distribution lists). Consider existing events

- 30th May: Farm Herefordshire
- 9th July: Herefordshire CLA AGM – agenda set but opportunity to mingle
- 10th July: Wye Catchment Partnership
- 14th September: Herefordshire Agricultural Show – benefits of attending to maintain and create ongoing partnerships, gear-up for the formal consultation
- 19th – 21st September: APF

Action: FL to follow up with Small Woods Association

Action: AA to talk to LD and getting LNRS onto Farm Herefordshire and Wye Catchment agenda

AA stated the importance of preliminary emails that can be shared more widely via the steering group and wider partners, local groups and directly with landowners

Detailed discussion on how emails can be shared more widely including issues faced by GDPR,

- CLA will share via e-news.
- engage Pat Stirling as a potential route to connect into Citizen Science groups'
- Importance and role of land agents
- Food businesses – Wye Agri Food Partnership, Bulmer's, Heineken, Weston, Avara foods

Action: AA and FL to progress GDPR internally

Action: AA to check with HD over deadlines for submissions for CLA e-news

Action: AA to draft template email for land agents as target audience

Action: HD, CS and AR to gather list of land agents for direct contact with them

AA brought up the online consultation that will be discussed internally with the GIS team, ensure that there is a QR code associated with the survey for access for those with smart-phones. Farm Herefordshire have a number of tablets that may be available to use

Action: AA to feed back to SG on online consultation

Action: AA to investigate with Kate Speke-Adams

Detailed discussion focused on social media

Action: AA to get in touch with communications at HC to draft and schedule posts

6. Strategy Tender

AA shared the overview of the strategy tender. RP to receive full draft for feedback.

7. Final Logo

SG approved final logo

8. A.O.B

RP mentioned highways strategic crossing and the suggestions mentioned included:

- Bodenham Lakes
- Yazor Brook, Essex Arms
- A49, Queenswood crossing
- Hereford relief road

Action: AA to contact Wye Valley National Landscape, Malvern Hills national landscape and Herefordshire Wildlife Trust to seek their input

9. Date of Steering Group meeting

SG agreed a change of date for the steering group to 18th June 1pm – 2pm

Action: EW and AR to invite specialist to attend species workshops